

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

## REGULAR MEETING ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Thursday, March 14, 2019, 11:00 A.M.

COMMISSION ROOM, FIRST FLOOR  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, California



**RABBI RICK STEINBERG**  
Chair

**DR. KERRY REYNOLDS**  
Vice Chair

**BEKELE DEMISSIE**  
Commissioner

**KIM TOAN DO**  
Commissioner

**M. FAREED FARUKHI**  
Commissioner

**MIKE HAMEL**  
Commissioner

**JANY LEE**  
Commissioner

**ADELINE NYAMATHI**  
Commissioner

**MICHAEL REYNOLDS**  
Commissioner

**MICHELE STEGGELL**  
Commissioner

**VACANT**  
Commissioner

ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Demissie, Do, Farukhi, Lee, Nyamathi and Steinberg

ABSENT: Commissioners Hamel, K. Reynolds, M. Reynolds and Steggell

PRESENT: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Joyce Sanchez, Senior Staff Member  
CLERK OF THE COMMISSION Jamie Ross, Deputy Clerk

*The Orange County Human Relations Commission is an independent advisory body, and our positions do not necessarily reflect the positions of the County of Orange Board of Supervisors.*

1. Call the Meeting to Order  
**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 11:01 A.M., BY CHAIR STEINBERG**
2. Monthly Summary of Commission Activities  
**PRESENTED; COUNTY COUNSEL PROVIDED AN UPDATE ON PROJECT TO UPDATE COUNTY COMMISSION BYLAWS**

### **OPEN FORUM**

None

## SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

### ACTION ITEMS: (Item 3)

3. Discussion and approval of events to be submitted to County Events Calendar for Board of Supervisors' approval

**COMMISSIONER FARUKHI SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING EVENTS: SILK ROAD UNITY FESTIVAL FOR MARCH 2020, OPEN MOSQUE DAY FOR OCTOBER 2019, HOUSE OF WORSHIP TOURS (MONTHLY) AND GREEK ORTHODOX FESTIVAL IN MAY 2020**

**OCCR STAFF TO PROVIDE FORM TO COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON EVENTS**

**COMMISSIONERS TO VOTE ON EVENTS AT 4/11/19, 11:00 A.M. MEETING**

### HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION: (Item 4)

4. Mental Health/Homeless Liaison  
**DELETED**

### DISCUSSION ITEMS: (Item 5)

5. Anti-Semitic hate incident  
**DISCUSSED; COMMISSIONER DEMISSIE REQUESTED INFORMATION BE SENT TO COMMISSIONERS WHEN AN INCIDENT OCCURS; CHAIR STEINBERG MENTIONED ADMINISTRATION AT NEWPORT HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL RESPONDED WELL TO INCIDENT**

### INFORMATION ITEMS: (Items 6 - 8)

6. Commission Staff Report:  
a. Update on PCRP staff  
b. Collaboration with Bigs with Badges  
c. Business Cards  
**PRESENTED**
7. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff  
**NO REPORT**
8. OCSD Interfaith Council Update  
**PRESENTED**

### ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS

**COMMISSIONER FARUKHI THANKED COMMISSION STAFF FOR BUSINESS CARDS; CHAIR STEINBERG REQUESTED CLERK TO AGENDIZE A RETREAT/TRAINING FOR JUNE; CHAIR STEINBERG ANNOUNCED 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF CONGREGATION ON FRIDAY, 3/15 AT 7:30**

### AGENDA BUILDING

None

**ADJOURNED:** 12:04 P.M.

MINUTES – ORANGE COUNTY HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION MEETING, March 14, 2019

# SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

\*\*\* KEY \*\*\*

## *Left Margin Notes*

1 Bekele Demissie	A = Abstained
2 Kim Toan Do	X = Excused
3 M. Fareed Farukhi	N = No
4 Mike Hamel	C.O. = Commission Order
5 Jany Lee	
6 Adeline Nyamathi	Reso = Resolution
7 Dr. Kerry Reynolds	Ord = Ordinance
8 Mike Reynolds	
9 Michele Steggell	
10 Rabbi Rick Steinberg	

*(1st number = Moved by; 2nd number = Seconded by)*

/s/

---

**RABBI RICK STEINBERG**

*Chair*

/s/

---

*Jamie Ross, Deputy  
Clerk of the Commission*



**DATE:** Thursday, March 14, 2019

**LOCATION:** 333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Santa Ana, 92701 (Commission Room – 1st Floor)

**TIME:** 11:00 AM

## AGENDA

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Call the Meeting to Order                            | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 2. Overview of Monthly Summary of Commission Activities | Fareed Farukhi       |

## OPEN FORUM: *Members of the Public may address the Commission on human relations issues*

## ACTION ITEMS

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 3. Discussion and approval of events to be submitted to County Events Calendar for Board of Supervisors' approval | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
|---|----------------------|

## HEARING/SPEAKER/PRESENTATION

- |                                    |               |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| 4. Mental Health/ Homeless Liaison | Jenny Lindsey |
|------------------------------------|---------------|

## DISCUSSION

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5. Anti-Semitic Hate Incident | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|

## INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 6. Commission Staff Report             | Alison Edwards       |
| a. Update on PCRPs staff               |                      |
| b. Collaboration with Bigs with Badges |                      |
| c. Business Cards                      |                      |
| 7. Update from OC Chiefs and Sheriff   | Chief Mike Hamel     |
| 8. OCSD Interfaith Council Update      | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |
| 9. Announcements from Commissioners    | All Commissioners    |
| 10. Adjourn Commission Meeting         | Rabbi Rick Steinberg |



# Orange County Human Relations Commission

**MISSION:** *Seek out the causes of tension and conflict, discrimination and intolerance, and eliminate those causes*

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: February 2019

D. Community-Police Meetings	4	6	150%
E. Chief's Advisory Boards & Sherriff's Interfaith Council	8	7	88%
F. Community Outreach & Relationship Building meetings	40	40	100%
G. Police/Diverse Community Dialogues	2	2	100%
H. Hate Crime Report & Network Meeting	1	3	300%
I. Support to hate crime victims	8	15	188%
J. Outreach efforts (speeches, presentations, etc.)	10	10	100%
K. Community training on intergroup relations topics	4	5	125%
L. Annual Awards program	1	0	0%
M. Participate in community-based/outreach symposiums	2	1	50%

### Police-Community Relations

- **Sheriffs Academy Training:** Staff trained on Culture diversity had 46 recruits.
- **Buena Park and youth dialogue:** Staff meet with 11 officers and 12 youth at Buena Park Junior High.

### Relationship Building

- **Hate Crime Network Meeting:** Staff attended LA Hate crime meeting.
- **Lunar New Year Mixer:** Staff attended to network with Asian community and community leaders.

**Concept: To strengthen relationships between youth and the Buena Park Police Department**

**Dates:** February 26, 2019

**Location:** Buena Park Junior High School

**Team: Commission and Bridges Team**

**Facilitators:** Joyce Sanchez and Julie Vue

**Collaborators/Sponsors:** Big Brother Big Sister, Buena Park Police Department and Buena Park Junior High School

**Goals:**

- Assess perceptions among the police officers and youth
- Improve relationship between youth and law enforcement
- Familiarize them with circle dialogue

**Attendance:**

- 11 Officer
- 12 students (graders)
- 1 OC Human Relations Commission Intern

**Results:**

- Staff meet with 11 Police officers and 12 youth separately to introduce them to the circle process and provide a safe space for youth to share their experiences with law enforcement and help them feel comfortable and open to express themselves in dialogue

**Learning points:**

- Meeting more than one time to build rapport with the youth and explain why we meet with them separately
- Being aware that some children take the bus and need to leave at 4:20pm
- Explaining to officers why they meet separately at the beginning of the meeting

**Future Development:**

- Joint dialogue to share findings

**Title:** Cultural Diversity Training LD 42

**Concept:** To bring awareness of how perceptions and stereotypes can affect our day to day interactions

**Dates:** January 15, 2019

**Location:** Orange County Sheriff Department Regional Training Academy

**Facilitators:** Joyce Sanchez

**Collaborators/Sponsors:** Sheriff's Academy, OCHR, PFLAG, Sikh volunteer

**Goals:**

- Increasing awareness how our daily attitudes and differing perceptions can affect our daily interactions.
- Develop intercultural awareness and increase understanding of different multicultural perspectives
- Build relationship between law enforcement and local organizations

**Attendance:**

- 46 Recruits

**Results:**

- Recruits were introduced to the work of Orange County Human Relations Commission.
- Recruits had the opportunity to review and reflect on the meaning of perception and stereotyping.
- Recruits got to meet and interact with members of communities which they had not interacted before

**Recruits Survey comments:**

- *Hearing from each community representative and their expectations from law enforcement was extremely helpful and insightful.*
- *I enjoyed having a one on one conversation with each person today.*
- *...exchanging viewpoints with open and honest discussion.*

**Resources:**

- PowerPoint
- handouts
- Panelists from different communities: Sikh, LGBT, Latino, Asian and Muslim

**Group Pictures**



THE ORANGE COUNTY  
**REGISTER**

## Students seen in photo on social media flashing Nazi salute around swastika formed with cups

Newport-Mesa Unified School District Superintendent Fred Navarro sent an alert about the photo to district administrators and board members, said school board president Charlene Metoyer.



Newport-Mesa school district officials on Sunday were investigating a photo making the rounds on social media showing students reportedly from the district flashing Nazi salutes while surrounding a swastika formed by red plastic cups. (Photo by Leonard Ortiz, Orange County Register/SCNG)

By [DEEPA BHARATH](#) | [dbharath@scng.com](mailto:dbharath@scng.com) | Orange County Register

PUBLISHED: March 3, 2019 at 1:19 pm | UPDATED: March 4, 2019 at 6:48 am

A photo of a group of smiling students flashing a Nazi salute while surrounding a swastika formed by red plastic cups posted on social media shocked the Newport Beach community, Jewish leaders and others on Sunday morning.

Newport-Mesa Unified School District Superintendent Fred Navarro sent an alert about the photo to district administrators and board members, said school board

President Charlene Metoyer, who added that they've identified several students in that photo who attend Newport Harbor High School.

Students from other high schools in the district also were reportedly at the party, but officials said Sunday that they were still investigating and would not comment further.

Metoyer said the incident occurred at an off-campus party that was not authorized by the school.

"I was simply devastated to see that," Metoyer said of the photo. "As a school board, we're not only concerned by the underage drinking, but also the mental health of the students who participated in this horrendous act and all their fellow students who will be affected by it. This is appalling to not just our Jewish student community, but to all of us who care about human rights."

[View image on Twitter](#)



Metoyer said district and school administrators along with a crisis team were meeting on campus Sunday to determine “next steps” and possible disciplinary action against the students who were involved.

“I’d like to see genuine remorse from the perpetrators here,” she said. “They need to learn about what those symbols mean and how devastating it is to see it occurring in 2019. We obviously need to do a better job of providing education and awareness.”

The school district is continuing “to gather information regarding the conduct of these students and work with law enforcement,” district spokeswoman Adriana Angulo said.

“We remain focused on educating students on all aspects of life’s challenges and are committed to holding students accountable, educating them on the consequences of their choices, and the impact these actions have on our schools and community at large,” she said.

Hateful symbols and actions should never be normalized, said Rabbi Peter Levi, regional director of the Anti-Defamation League’s Orange County/Long Beach chapter.

“The bottom line is that swastikas and Nazi salutes are never funny,” he said. “And when such actions are normalized as jokes, hate and bigotry become normalized. And we open the door for escalating acts of bias bigotry and bullying.”

Anti-Semitism [has been on the rise nationwide](#).

The Anti-Defamation League documented a 58 percent increase in anti-Semitic hate incidents including hate crimes from 2016 to 2017, adding that a significant number of anti-Semitic incidents are documented on school campuses.

The ADL noted a spike after the Charlottesville Unite the Right rally in August 2017 when white nationalists marched on the University of Virginia’s campus holding tiki torches chanting: “Jews will not replace us.”

The nation was shaken by the shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in October when a gunman barged into the place of worship on Sabbath morning and shot and killed 11 people as he shouted out anti-Semitic slurs.

The Pittsburgh shooting was followed by several vandalism incidents involving swastikas nationwide, including at the [Congregation Beth Jacob in Irvine](#) where a vandal scrawled “(Expletive) Jews” on a front wall.

The students’ photo is a reminder of “how mainstreamed the swastika and the Hitler salute have become,” said Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at Cal State San Bernardino.

“This is the kind of image I’m used to seeing when I’m looking at gatherings of violent skinheads, not high school students in one of the most acclaimed school districts in the country,” he said. “This should be a teachable moment.”

There is “nothing accidental” about the photo, Levin said.

“This is not an accidental or impulsive expression of bigotry,” he said. “This was premeditated based on the group of people, the Hitler salute and the carefully arranged cups. These folks knew there was a chance this image could get out. But, there is obviously no compunction whatsoever.”

The incident elicited a response from Rep. Katie Porter, D-Irvine, who said “the use of such a harmful symbol, which represents the genocide of the Jewish people, is an act of aggression and hate that has no place in our vibrant, diverse and welcoming community.”

“I call on local parents and community leaders to redouble our efforts to educate these young people about the oppression of, and violence against, Jewish people worldwide, and ensure that acts like these never happen again,” she said.